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**Media Contact**

Kristin Rodine

Public Information Officer

208-332-6807

[krodine@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:krodine@sde.idaho.gov)

**SDE announces grants for peer-based suicide prevention programs across Idaho**

(BOISE) – Students at 17 middle and high schools across Idaho will team with adult advisers to fight against teen suicide by decreasing risk factors and building positive influences, thanks to state Sources of Strength grants.

“Given the devastating effect suicide has on our school communities, it is vitally important that students have trusted, caring adults and peers in their lives,” said Matt McCarter, student engagement director for SDE and project administrator for the Idaho Lives Project. “Sources of Strength cultivates supportive relationships and builds up protective factors like hope, persistence and emotional regulation. We are thrilled to have these schools on board.”

Each school gets \$2,400 to support adult advisers in the schools and to help fund peer leader activities for students to imbed the ideas and messaging of Sources of Strength throughout the student body in the coming school year, McCarter said. The program is part of the [Idaho Lives Project](http://www.idaholives.org), a joint effort of the State Department of Education and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare’s Suicide Prevention Program.

Schools selected for grants include Gateways Secondary School and Skyview High School in Nampa; Payette High School and Idaho City Middle-Senior High School. Schools in the Meridian area receiving grants include Meridian Middle School, Lewis-Clark Middle School, Meridian Medical Arts & Technical Charter High School, and Victory Middle School.

In North and North-Central Idaho, grants go to Kootenai Junior-Senior High School in Harrison, Timberlake Junior High School in Spirit Lake, Lakeland Junior High School and Mountain View Alternative High School in Rathdrum, Orofino Junior-Senior High School, and Salmon River Junior-Senior High School in Riggins.

Butte County Junior-Senior High School in Arco, South Hills Middle School in Twin Falls and Blackfoot Charter Middle School also are joining Sources of Strength. Launched in 2014, the program has funded between five and 12 schools per cohort, but the Idaho Legislature increased funding for youth suicide prevention this past session, clearing the way for more schools to join Sources of Strength for 2018-19.

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For more information, check out this website: <http://www.idaholives.org/about-us>